L'Storta near Rome
Oct 4th 1824

My dear Marie

I begin to be rather concerned that you have not
received my picture - it has been sent from Ancona these 4 Months
or I should hope it is in England, suffering in the Case like me
Lett. pray make some inquiries about it - Soon Mr Parke
be in England, and he will write you about it - I should like
this picture to be exhibited in the British Gallery, should
you get from Mr R. A in time - I think January is the time
it must be sent - but you will know more from Mr Brad - and like
wise any other directions. I wrote to him about it in the Spring
- say 10 Guineas a piece is the price in the letter - I have told you what
to call in a former letter - pray send me the earliest news of
it.

Perhaps you will have heard of my misfortune tho'
it must be inaccurately so I will tell you - I wrote in my
last, that I was staying here with a Lady and her 2 daughters
- we had been here some 5 Weeks - when the Mother was
taken ill from a Bilious attack - which on the 5th day turned to
Bilious fever, and before 2 o'clock she died - you will
easily not be a stone - like as I, but stone with Pain

[illegible] for distressed Ladies, and in a Country where nothing was

to be had, or one to assist us — I dont know whether the

grief of Rose for Girles, or the horrors arising from the wants

and Customs of the Country and the heat were the worst

— dont contradict it has been a most awful situation — It is

now all over — they are in Rome suffering dreadfully from

their loss — I have quite recovered my health again, and not

suffered the loss of much time — and am now finishing my

Vintage — my friends have shown the same love to me as

in the affair of poor Keats death — 3 of them came to keep

me company in the Country here, and talked and chatted me

out of all low spirits — kind fellows, the confidence I

had in them was my only comfort — thro the whole affair

— So now cease all your fears about me — I am snugly

in my own bottom — my Room here in the Country — covered with

my Landscapes ale in oil colours — have now what with

Taking day to that — I have been so taken with it — that

I have studied 10 hours a day — so my progress has astonish

every one and even myself — But Mr Brown, used to tell me —

that I had a great feeling for Landscape painting — I have

done 19 Works in the space of — from the finest views in

Italy — This was always my intention, to bring away with
me what I can want in my painting — Those Studies are to serve
as back grounds to my future pictures — My friends are
satisfied to take little pencil Sketches, but this will do
for me — and by my perseverance, you cannot think what
a facility I have attained in my Oil Colours — owing to
continued painting — I have made a box, which I constantly
have, with me — and every thing in readiness ———

In November I return to Rome, which is only 4 miles
from here, or that I also spent there — during the Winter I
shall paint the King Lear — which is the one ordered,
— What a delight it will be to my dear Father to see all things I have
done in Italy — and to see me turning them all to profit — you
never can not a thing I do, but what I have an object for it
— Tell Jane I have been Organising, have done twice, they have
a good Organ, and appear to like the Scotch Singers, I have
very much — Owing to this Lady's death I have added
a number of great and invaluable friends to my future life
is it not singular that to poor Keats my acquaintance with
owe a great part of my present good fortune — I find
it was owing to this that Mr Severn first made my
acquaintance — and then gave me this order for the "Lear"
my coming with Keats and friendship for him — will be never

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [